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**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**On page 1, before "FIELD OF THE INVENTION," please insert the following:**

—The present application is a national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT/CA99/00638, filed July 15, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/116,732, now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,017,504.—

**Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 4-13, with the following amended paragraph:**

—The most common method for preparing perovskite and perovskite-like catalysts is the traditional method called "ceramic". This method simply consists in mixing constituent powders (oxides, hydroxides or carbonates) and sintering the powder mixture thus formed to high temperature. The problem with this method is that calcination at high temperature (generally above 1000°C) is necessary to obtain the crystalline perovskite or perovskite-like crystalline structure. Another drawback is that low specific surface area value is obtained (SS around 1 m<sup>2</sup>/g). An example of such a high temperature heating method is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,093,301 where a perovskite structure to be used in a catalyst is formed after heating a ground dry powder mixture at 1300°C.—